



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMAIM307 Participate in large whale disentanglement operations

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0.

Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- contributed to the risk assessment and disentanglement strategy for two whale entanglement scenarios
- applied procedures for at least one whale disentanglement operation on water
- worked safely during whale disentanglement operations following the approved incident management approach, including:
 - communicated and worked in a team and applied decision making criteria
 - kept a safe distance from the animal's danger zones and range of the animal's tail flukes
 - used appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times while in close vicinity of the whale and when using knives and poles
- contributed to one team briefing and one debriefing activity.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- key features of organisational incident management system, including:
 - roles and responsibilities
 - policies and procedures
 - reporting requirements
 - interagency operations
- key state/territory and Commonwealth legislative requirements and jurisdictional structures relevant to whale disentanglements
- cultural protocols relating to species, operations and location
- main operational risks, including:

- whale behaviour
- weather and sea conditions
- geography and location
- failing light, poor visibility
- public onlookers, interference, perceived need to act
- whale behaviour and biology, including:
 - whale types (toothed or baleen) and species
 - basic anatomy – tail, peduncle, pectoral fins, mouth, body
 - danger zones – within range of the animal's tail flukes
 - normal and abnormal behaviour, including unpredictability when distressed or harassed
 - threatening behaviour or warning signs, including head lunges, tail or pectoral slaps or trumpeting
- features of whale entanglement assessment, including:
 - size, species and company, including young
 - temperament, behaviour, condition, mobility
 - types of entanglement gear
 - environmental conditions – onshore or in deeper waters, proximity to rocks, weather and sea conditions
- types of entanglement to consider in developing a disentanglement strategy, including:
 - entangled but freely mobile
 - entangled so that swimming is inhibited
 - entangled and anchored to seabed
- personal protective equipment (PPE), including response agency requirements for:
 - wetsuit, gloves, boots
 - lifejackets, flotation device and helmet
- strategies to minimise risks to the response team, including:
 - keeping response gear (knives and poles) secure and accessible
 - using a support vessel with first-aid equipment
 - attending to changing weather and sea conditions
 - managing fatigue and hypothermia and hyperthermia
 - awareness of interference by private viewing craft and spectator vessels
 - keeping gear attached to whale out of response vessel and free from motor
 - lifting motor and walking boat along lines
 - risks associated with load-bearing line
 - never looping rope around hands, feet, legs or body
 - monitoring trailing gear near vessel propellers
- types of equipment and gear and their purpose, safe handling and storage, including:
 - photographic equipment, including underwater equipment and pole cams
 - communications equipment

- ropes and lines
- grappling hooks, shackles, D bolts, long extendable poles
- knives and cutting equipment
- floats
- organisational procedures for unsuccessful disentanglement, including communication and reporting, and use of tracking devices
- organisational safety procedures, including:
 - person falling overboard
 - personal injury or accident involving a crew member
 - team rotations to avoid fatigue and exposure to weather in-water survival techniques.
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Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - an environment that represents a whale entanglement scene – this includes the use of simulations and scenarios
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - whale tail or similar simulation device
 - response vessel
 - disentanglement equipment, including ropes, knives, shackles, D bolts and poles
 - personal protective equipment
- specifications:
 - risk assessment documentation and response agency standard operating procedures for whale disentanglements
- relationships:
 - relevant personnel and team members to report to and work with.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>